

DEMANDING A JUST TRANSITION FOR ENERGY WORKERS



Just Transition is about the fair treatment of workers and communities most affected by change as we move to a lower carbon world.

Change is already happening and UK and international policy makers and others talk of a Just Transition.

Ten years on from the Climate Change Act, the UK still does not have a plan that puts workers, future skills and affected communities at the heart of energy policy.

With over 200,000 members right across the energy and energy-intensive industries, GMB, Prospect, UNISON and Unite asked senior representatives of those affected what they wanted from a Just Transition.

This is what they said they wanted for their members, their families and their communities.

What does a just transition mean?

- A balanced low-carbon energy mix
- Investment in skills and infrastructure
- Protecting and creating high-quality jobs and employment
- No community left behind.

“The test for any just transition is whether those most affected are allowed to lead the debate and have ownership of the priorities. If not, it cannot be a just transition”



These are the just transition demands agreed by energy workers at a joint union conference in autumn 2018:



prospect.org.uk

gmb.org.uk

unitetheunion.org

unison.org.uk

U raining and skills development

Workers affected have fully funded access to quality training and skills development to support them through any adaptations required, or to take up new opportunities.

R elocation is fully-funded and voluntary

Workers have access to jobs in other geographic locations with fully-funded relocation packages agreed with trade unions and worker take-up of these opportunities is voluntary.

A dapting to the reality of climate change

Energy workers have the insight and skills to provide a unique viewpoint on not just the challenges of climate change, but also the complexity of solutions required to tackle it.

N ew jobs with comparable terms and conditions

We need a focus on the quality of jobs needed for a low-carbon economy. Too often the quality of work is an afterthought. New jobs need to be equivalent in skills, conditions and pensions. This means giving workers a voice and recognition of unions.

S ecure supply of affordable energy

It is essential that energy supply is secure, reliable, works in the interests of the nation and is affordable to all consumers with costs shared on an able to pay basis.

I nfluence and a voice over future policy

Unions and workers affected demand a seat at the table at which key decisions are taken on the transition. They should be able to contribute to solutions not simply told after the decision is made.

T aking a long term and sustainable view

We need a long-term plan with decisions taken to secure a long-term future for all, not one simply based on continued short-term profits or convenience. If workers are to be affected by transition it must be for worthwhile reasons and deliver long term rewards.

I ndustrially focused and supporting a balanced energy policy

Decisions taken need to ensure the UK remains a competitive employer with a strong manufacturing base (not exporting carbon intensive jobs overseas) and a balanced energy policy which builds on existing strengths and current infrastructure to address climate change.

O versight and ownership

Energy policy must serve the public good. We need oversight of the transition policies and a full review of the ownership status of energy assets in the UK.

N o communities left behind

We must recognise and react to the impact that closing carbon intensive production brings to local communities and invest in them to bring about long term renewal.

